

PLATT'S FINE HAND
IN THE RAINES BILL.

Putative Father of the Measure Acknowledges Its Real Paternity.

He Declares That the Proposed Liquor Tax Law Is the Essence of Beneficence.

Rumors of Boodle Assume Such Proportions That an Investigation Will Be Moved.

BITTES WORD WAR IN THE SENATE.

The Much Berated Law Seems to Have Mighty Few Friends, but Its Passage Under the Party Whip Is Assured.

Albany, March 5.—The manipulators of the Raines Excise bill were so panic-stricken to-day at the prospect of the ultimate defeat of the bill in the Assembly that they resolved upon a bold scheme to force the Republican Assemblymen from the cities into line. They deliberately circulated a story to the effect that there was to be a demand for an investigation of the charges that brewers have contributed a fund for the purpose of defeating the bill. This is the way the scheme worked. This afternoon the "tip" was passed around to several persons known to be communicative to newspaper men that there was a sensation brewing. Hints were then thrown out that several Senators had been approached by agents of the brewers and asked to use their influence and cast their votes against the bill. The "tipster," upon being pressed for further information, said the brewers' agents had been at their work since last Monday. To cap the climax, word was given out that a resolution has been prepared calling upon the Senate for the appointment of a committee to investigate the charges. The hint was also carefully dropped that Senator Higgins had this resolution and would offer it to the Senate on next Monday.

Continued by Raines.

Sensor Raines fathered the story. He was asked to-night if it was true that a resolution had been drawn up to be introduced on Monday night next by Senator Higgins, calling for the appointment of a committee to investigate the charges of bribery in connection with the Liquor Tax bill.

"Yes, it is true," he replied.

"Who will introduce the resolution?" Senator Higgins.

"Who has the information on which the resolution is based?"

"The resolution is based," replied Senator Raines, "on charges made in New York newspapers several days ago that money had been offered by me, representing the brewers, to a lobbyist in an effort to prevent the passage of the Raines bill in the Senate."

Sensor Higgins denied that he had any such resolution, and that he had heard any comment or gossip on the subject.

The reason for the dissemination of such a story lies in the fact that with the forty-seven Democrats in the Assembly, only thirty Republican votes are required to beat the Raines bill. At least thirty Republican Assemblymen from cities are opposed to the bill, and it was evidently for the purpose of warning them that the "boodle" story was launched.

Assemblymen in Revolt.

To-day's development is of a piece with the general scheme practiced by the machine in the Assembly. The late Mr. Harvey T. Andrews, of New York, called a conference of the New York Republican Assemblymen for the purpose of formulating some programme by which to fight the bill. Speaker Fish heard of it, gave Mr. Andrews a lecture, and that night Mr. Andrews, according to report current at the time, was called to New York by a telegraphic message from Mr. Platt. Mr. Andrews organized a more conference with a view to bolting the Republican Assembly caucus.

Last night all the Republican Assemblymen from the cities agreed to meet at the Kenmore for the purpose of mapping out a plan to defeat the bill. They knew they had it in their power to kill the bill, and determined to be bold. They had no sooner gotten together than a messenger from Speaker Fish arrived. In the name of the Speaker he protested vehemently against any such conference and uttered a solemn warning. The result of this interruption was that the conference broke up in confusion with no action taken on the subject of wreagle in the Senate.

The Senate was crowded this morning both by Senators and outsiders, all anxious to listen to the promised debate on the Raines Liquor Tax bill.

The proceedings were opened by a wrangle over the suspension of rule 4, a wrangle in which a considerable amount of ill-feeling was manifested on the parts of Senators Raines, Cantor, Guy, Coggeshall and Pavey. The combatted rule was finally suspended, and the Senate went into Committee of the Whole on the bill. Even then the wrangle did not close, and it was only after an interchange of many hard words that Senator Raines took the floor and began his speech for the bill. It was a long speech, but the trend of it may be well judged from the following generous extracts:

Sensor Raines's Speech.

"I am not here to denounce those who are engaged in the liquor traffic. While with one breath the opponents of the bill have denounced it because it was not strict enough in its provisions and have paraded it as a 'free rum bill,' in the next they have inveighed against it because of the restrictions placed on the traffic by it. The hearings on this measure in committee have been more thorough and exhaustive than were ever given on any measure introduced in the Legislature. The police and excise officials of nearly all the cities in the State were heard.

Those interested in the liquor traffic say to us: 'You can look at the 24,000 man-

jority for Tammany Hall and see what we accomplished last year, and we assure you, gentlemen of the majority, that if you pass this bill we have no use for the Republican party. If, indeed, we did ever have any.'

"You can secure our support by giving us an open Sunday and abolishing your little church and schoolhouse limitation and giving the restaurants local privileges and preserving the excise boards and their power to use a wise discretion to be exercised especially at election time. Do this and we will do for you and for law and order what no authority has ever yet been able to accomplish—we will enforce the law. You will no longer have use for Roosevelt. In fact, we may say we do not particularly care who makes the law, or what laws are made, so long as there is no Roosevelt to enforce them.

Solitude for the Taxpayer.

"They know this bill is drawn in the interest of good order for the enforcement of the law of the restriction of a traffic, the effects of which are unanimously admitted to be in many ways detrimental to the best interests of humanity. They know it will place upon that traffic a proportion of the burden of expense which it causes taxpayer, and that in this respect it is fair and equitable.

"But I pass from the objections raised by Excise Commissioners and attorneys, whose incomes will be reduced; from the objections of dealers whose taxes are increased, though I cannot but believe that many of them will save of assessments for personal gain or political blackmail much more than the extra tax, while at the same time they will experience a gain in self-esteem and independent manhood, through relief from the wise discretion of Excise Boards and levies of tribute by political machines, since under this bill the only direct force should be law and the only power to which they are amenable a jury of their fellow-citizens.

"The claim that the bill cannot be enforced and that the American Sunday has passed away is absurd, and the operation of this bill will illustrate the facts. Against this measure is attacked because it does not permit the opening of a saloon on Sunday, or at least provide for local option on Sunday opening. The friends of the saloon have become so powerful under the fostering care of Democratic legislation, that they decided last year to attempt to enforce their demands for abolition of Sunday, so far as their traffic is concerned, and they point us to the 24,000 majority in the City of New York as the people's endorsement of that demand. When those gentlemen control the Legislature and Governor, they will have the power to abolish the Sabbath, to abrogate that day of rest as well as the Saturday half-holiday. I am not here to argue the proposition that in the interests of the religion the open saloon on Sunday should not be permitted. It is not necessary for me to do that, but I declare that in the interests of humanity this day of rest, the wisest provision which the wisdom of the law giver of the universe has placed in moral law, should not be destroyed in the interest of a traffic which demoralizes and destroys."

How This City Will Fare.

"The State Assessors report for 1894, the last available, shows that New York City paid 45,585 per cent. of the total State tax. Consequently she receives a direct benefit of 45,585 per cent. of all reductions of the tax by reason of any sums that may be in the State Treasury. As we have estimated New York would pay into the State Treasury, namely, \$1,388,790; she would receive in reduction of her State taxes \$930,796, which added to the two-thirds of the liquor tax we have left in her treasury, we give New York City \$3,308,350, or \$1,793,490 more than she received last year out of licenses.

"But that is not all. New York not only gets two-thirds of the tax paid by the traffic in that city, and 45,585 per cent. of what she pays into the State Treasury, but she also gets 45,585 per cent. of the entire amount paid into the State Treasury, as a result of this tax. It must not be forgotten that a reduction of 40 per cent. of licensed places means that there would be in New York 5,439, instead of 9,058, as under the present system, a result which even the Excise Commissioners of New York would appreciate as being beyond their power to accomplish. The report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue shows, as we have seen, 44,176 retail liquor dealers in the State of New York, and 1,387 retail malt liquor dealers, a total of 42,763, the reduction of 40 per cent. would leave 25,658, or estimating the population of the State at 6,500,000 one dealer to each 252 men, women and children, instead of one dealer to each 152, as at present.

Dealers Will Not Profit, He Says.

"This bill is fiercely opposed because it is claimed the tax is too high. Is the tax too high? We have seen the citizens are not robbed. How about the dealer? We would put the receipts for beer alone at \$180,000,000; it is not high. I believe it is \$200,000,000 too low. The nine million barrels of beer manufactured in New York last year cost the dealer, at a high estimate, \$63,000,000; out of the difference of \$117,000,000 comes the cost of running 25,658 places which, I estimate, will pay a tax

under this bill. Averaging the cost of running these places at \$2,500 each, amounting to \$64,143,000, then add an average of \$400 each for taxes under this bill, amounting to \$10,263,200, and you have this state of the account: Received by retail dealers for beer, \$180,000,000; cost of 9,000,000 barrels, \$63,000,000; cost of places, \$64,143,000; taxes to State and locality, \$10,263,200; total cost of running, \$137,406,200; leaving a net profit on beer alone of \$42,593,800, or an average to each of the 25,658 dealers of \$1,650. Now, \$1,650 is not a fortune, but it is \$450 more for each retailer than we propose to pay the sixty special agents who will look after them, and it is \$150 more than the Senator of the State of New York is paid.

The Democratic party has told the people that it was not intended to pass the bill; that it was simply a scheme of the man whom they designate as 'Boss Platt' to compel contributions to the Republican campaign funds. It begins to dawn upon them that they may have been a slight mistake somewhere, and that Thomas C. Platt is not the man they took him for. To-day every Republican in the State and every Democrat, too, knows, and has no doubt about it either, that whatever influence he is greater or less, the Republican leader may have, it is used for the passage of the bill. I believe that no labor that he has ever performed will carry with it more of beneficent results to the party to which he belongs and to the people as well, or will more redound to the honor of Thomas C. Platt than his efforts to secure the passage of the bill.

Spirited Debate Follows.

During Senator Raines's speech he declined to be interrupted, and at its conclusion he was followed by Senator Coggeshall in opposition. Coggeshall's speech was followed by a spirited debate largely in antagonism to the measure, the chief part being taken by Senators McCarran and Grady, the latter making an impassioned speech. McCarran declared that the passage of the bill would place a man's business at the mercy of every crank and blackmailer, and that the measure was full of discriminations and the necessary provisions. Senator Cantor hotly denounced the caucus in attempting to force the passage of the bill, and declared the decree to be out that the liquor traffic was to be at the beck and call of the Republican machine, which proposed establishing a gigantic corps of spies and agents.

Notwithstanding the reiterated assertion that talk was useless, talk continued until the tired Senators took a recess at 6:25 until 8:30. At the latter hour they reconvened, Senator Foley leading the night attack on the measure.

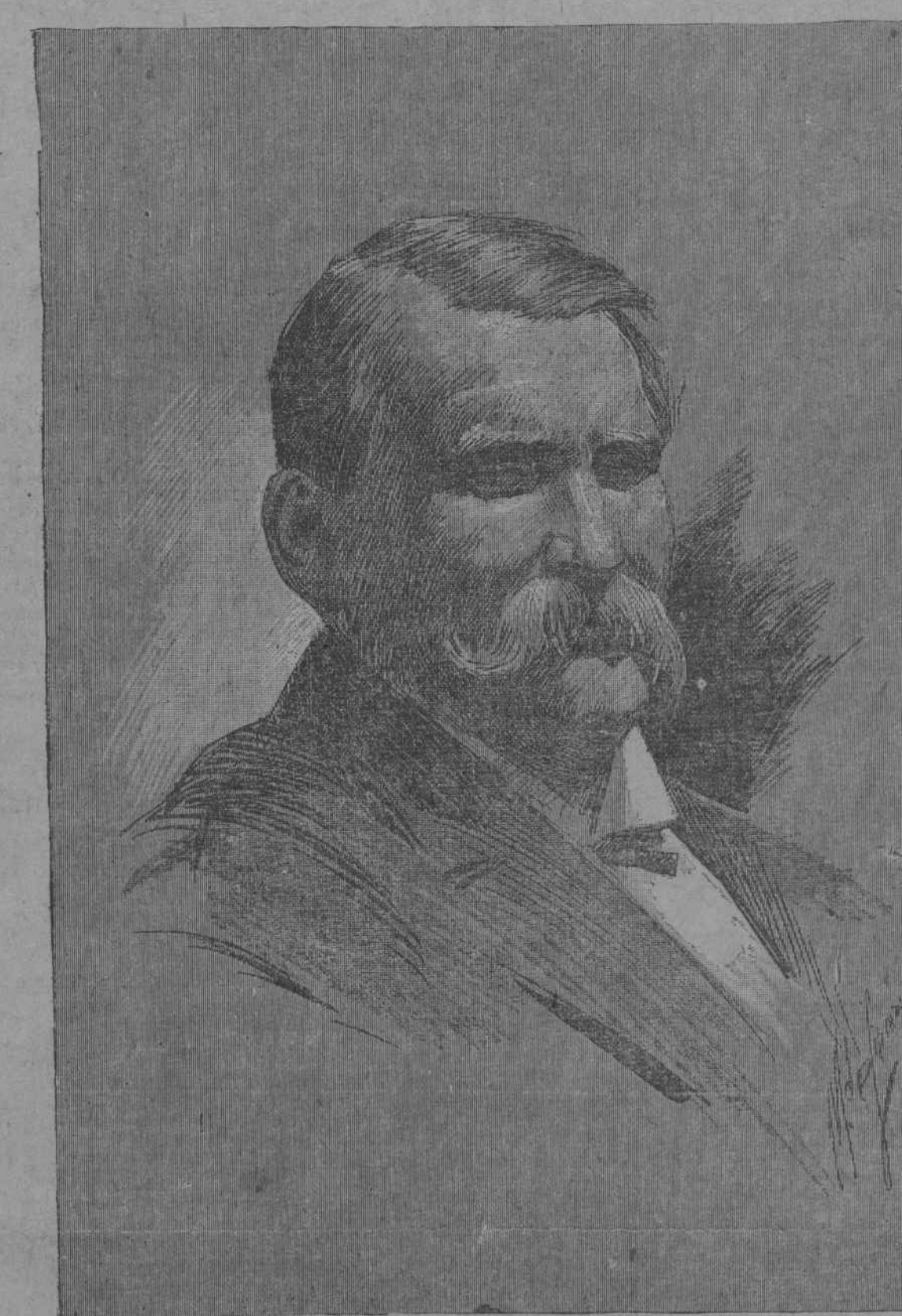
Sensor Guy continued his denunciation of the measure, Senator Lexow taking up the cudgels for the bill. Senator Grady made another attack on the bill and so the discussion went on until the hour of adjournment.

SURFACE ROADS PROTEST.

Street Railway Presidents Argue Against the Bills Recommended by the Nixon Committee.

Albany, N. Y., March 5.—A determined fight is being waged by the street railway magnates against the attempt to secure a three-cent fare. In the Assembly Railroad Commission this afternoon all their efforts were directed against one of the bills recommended by the Nixon investigating Committee, which recommends that thirty tickets be sold for a dollar, for use during commutation hours. The street railroad presidents of the State were present in force to object to any and all concessions and restrictions.

Those who spoke were C. L. Rossett, of



Senator John Raines.

Framer of the Raines Liquor Tax bill, the main preliminary step to the passage of which was taken at Albany yesterday, when the Senate went into Committee of the Whole on the measure, after many lively passages at arms between its advocates and its opponents.

Freeland, Broadway Cable Company; G. S. Hart, Second Avenue Railroad; J. S. Powers, Glens Falls Street Railway; Mr. Van Ethen, of Kingston; John E. Clark, of Binghamton; William Shaw, of Troy; S. H. Little, of Buffalo, and his attorney, and President G. T. Rogers, of the Surface Railroad Trust. There was also ex-Sensor O'Connor, who has been here most of the winter, as "the representative" of the surface railroad combine.

The bills which the committee recommended are six in number. They compel the proper heating and lighting of cars, an adequate service, a fare that shall not exceed five cents and the issue of transfers, the sale of thirty tickets for \$1, to be good from 5 to 8 in the morning and from 3 to 7 in the evening, whenever a road is able to pay a five per cent dividend, the re-sale at public auction of franchises after thirty years, prevent stock watering, prohibit one car passing another that has stopped at a street crossing, and compel the use of feeders.

Each of the railroad presidents spoke against the proposed legislation. Their arguments were to the effect that the companies should be depended upon to look after the welfare of the public and did not need any assistance. But the three-cent fare was their especial detestation. Ex-Sensor O'Connor argued that it would open the way to wholesale stealing on the part of conductors, who would turn in the cheap tickets instead of the nickels. He asserted also that the people would insist on using the tickets long after the prescribed hours and that much trouble would result.

President Rossett, of the Brooklyn Heights Company, did not believe he could make any money if he had to put on a three-cent fare just now.

President Freeland, of the Broadway Cable, did not say anything about reduced fare. What he objected to was any limit being placed on the speed.

Hart, of the Second Avenue line, said that his line was a public benefactor in the way of developing the East Side, and that it now transported forty out of every hundred passengers, which was all that could reasonably be asked.

President Freeland, in an appeal that the newspapers that were urging the three-cent fare bill did not know anything about the troubles of the street railways, and he felt called upon to say that the cheap ticket idea was very unjust.

All these contentions were disposed of by

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Arthur C. Wade, attorney for the committee who conducted the investigation and drew the bills. Most of his argument was devoted to the three-cent fare bill, and received careful attention.

"The cheap fare is bound to come," he said, "and it really inflicts no hardship on the railroad. It is the right of the workman. Few of the roads pay anything for their franchise, and if there are any percentages paid to the cities they are really paid by the nickels of the people. The provisions of the bill sufficiently protect the companies."

He said he was opposed to city charters, because they were really paid for in the end by the passengers.

In conclusion Mr. Wade said that the railroad men were hurting themselves by opposing these measures. This was especially the case with the three-cent fare bill. The dangers with which this had been surrounded were fictitious, and the passage of the bill would result in more business for the roads, and would finally relieve them of the necessity of paying percentages.

THE LEGISLATURE TO ACT.

Lloyds Companies May Be Immediately Brought Under State Control.

Albany, March 5.—A sensation was caused in the Legislature to-day by the Journal's story of the Lloyds Insurance scandals. Within a few weeks the question of bringing these companies under the supervision of the State Superintendent of Insurance has been discussed by the Senate. A bill having that object in view was introduced by Senator Humphrey and is now in committee. The Senator is not present in the city, but his associates are generally of the opinion that in view of the facts made public by the Journal the bill will eventually be enacted into a law.

Its provisions may even be made more stringent than were at first proposed. There is no doubt that the Attorney-General will act promptly on the information that has been secured. One of his deputies said to-night:

"The story told by the Journal is most remarkable. This office has, of course, not only on the motion of the State Insurance Department. The action on the part of the Attorney-General could be to permanently restrain the bogus companies from doing business."

Superintendent Pierce, who is the head of the Insurance Department, was also astounded at the Journal's revelations.

"This office started the investigation now being made by Deputy Attorney-General Richards," he said. "We wanted to get at the legal status of the Lloyds, and this exposure of bogus charters has been one of the results. I read the Journal this morning with great interest, but I am not yet able to say when or how we shall act on the information that has been secured."

Not conferred with Mr. Richards about his work, and am not fully informed about his actual discoveries, as will be necessary before I decide upon a plan of action."

Long Had Suspicion.

It was also learned in the Insurance Department that there has long been a suspicion as to the validity of many of the Lloyds charters. Many complaints have from time to time been made by persons who have not been able to secure insurance due them from Lloyds companies. But as some of the associations were deemed above reproach, it was finally decided to await an investigation. The result has amazed the Insurance Department, and has more than fully justified the determination to have all such associations put under State supervision. As the law now stands the Lloyds are a peril unto themselves, and there is no way in which their condition or responsibility can be determined.

A resolution calling for a special committee to investigate the Lloyds has been drawn and is said to be in the possession of a Senator. It has been held back on account of the great desire to keep down expenses, but it may now be introduced.

Illegal Business Should Be Stopped.

Sensor Malby, who is one of the loudest insurance lawyers in the Senate, is greatly interested in the story of the Lloyds forged charters. He said to-night:

"This is a most remarkable fraud, but I am not surprised at it. A year ago I introduced a bill to bring the Lloyds companies under State supervision, and, as a matter of course, I was willing now to vote for Senator Humphrey's bill in our committee. It is a necessity. I believe most of the associations were doing an illegal business. There are some of the companies that are sound, but that is no reason why they should be compelled to do a business with the State Insurance Department and make annual reports."

Sensor Malby is the chairman of the Insurance Committee, and he is also impressed with the necessity for legislation that will protect the insured.

THEIR DISGUISE ALL RIGHT.

Bluecoats Went After Their Man in the Garb of Puddlers.

Patrick Murphy promised Magistrate Simms when the latter was a Police Justice that he would pay his wife \$4 a week. He did for about three months and then disappeared. Policemen Leibler and their companions, of the Jefferson Market Court squad, were given a warrant, sworn out by Mrs. Murphy, in which she charged her husband with abandonment.

They tracked Murphy to an iron foundry at Spuyten Duyvil, but were unable to get inside the works. Then they borrowed shovels and jacks of a couple of puddlers, and after smearing their faces with machine oil and coal dust, managed to get on the watchman and took Murphy in charge. The latter was set free by Magistrate Cornell on his promise to pay his wife \$5 a week.

To Determine Feigenbaum's Sanity.

Albany, N. Y., March 5.—Governor Morton to-day received from Hugh Pentecost, counsel for Carl Feigenbaum, the condemned murderer, an application that a commission be appointed to determine Feigenbaum's sanity. Feigenbaum murdered Julius Rosenberg, of Buffalo, and was hanged on September 1, 1894, in New York City, and the judgment of conviction in his case was affirmed by the Court of Appeals on Tuesday.

The will of Maria E. Lane was admitted to probate yesterday by Surrogate Arnold, despite the fact that the two subscribing witnesses refused to identify their signatures in court. It was much more possible. His Honor said, for the witnesses to be mistaken than for the testatrix to have forged her name with such skill. Besides, there was nothing to show any motive for such an act upon Mrs. Lane's part.

Justice Andrews decided yesterday that Thomas O'Leary should be appointed committee of the person and the Union Trust Company committee of the property of Richard O'Leary, the ex-patronman, whom a Sheriff's jury attributed to competent to take care of himself or his estate.

NEWS OF THE COURTS.

Gertrude M. Farragut's will, filed yesterday for probate, leaves her estate, valued at \$30,000, to Leola Farragut, her husband, whom she makes her executor. At his death the property is to go to Virginia Hall.

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There will be some things in next Sunday's Journal that will astonish everybody. Or order your copy early.

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Characteristic Poses of Senator Raines While Defending His Excise Bill in the State Senate.



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